

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An alternate activity indicator for a component of an electronic device comprising:
 - 5 an activity indicator visible from a front panel of the electronic device, the activity indicator configured to provide a continuous indication of the presence of a first continuous operating condition associated with the electronic device; and an activity detection circuit coupled to the activity indicator, the activity detection circuit configured to generate an activity signal when detecting a second periodic operating condition associated with the component, and to communicate the activity signal to the activity indicator;
 - 10 wherein the activity indicator is interrupted from continuously indicating the presence of the first continuous operating condition by the activity signal, thereby producing an indication of the second periodic operating condition.
2. An alternate activity indicator according to claim 1, wherein the first continuous operating condition includes a power-on operating condition, and the second periodic operating condition includes a HDD operating condition.
- 20 3. An alternate activity indicator according to claim 1, wherein the activity indicator includes a single color LED.
4. An alternate activity indicator according to claim 1, wherein the electronic device includes a computer system, and wherein the component includes a HDD.
- 25 5. A computer system having an alternate activity indicator comprising:
 5. A computer system having an alternate activity indicator comprising:
 - an indicator capable of providing illumination and visible from a front panel of the

computer system, the illumination in response to the presence of a first continuous operating condition; and

an activity detection circuit coupled to the indicator, the activity detection circuit capable of generating an activity signal indicative of the presence of a second periodic operating condition associated with a component of the computer system, and to communicate the activity signal to the indicator;

5 wherein the indicator is capable of being interrupted from illuminating in response to the presence of the first continuous operating condition by the activity signal, and is thereby capable of producing an indication of the second periodic operating condition comprising intervals when the indicator is interrupted from illuminating in response to the presence of the first continuous operating condition.

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6. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the first continuous operating condition includes a power-on operating condition, and the second periodic operating condition includes a HDD operating condition.

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7. A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the activity indicator includes a single color LED.

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